

West Regional Tribal Conservation Advisory Council Meeting
March 17, 2016
Welcome Teleconference

Attendees:

Astor Boozer, West Regional Conservationist
Yvette Rushing, Operation Analyst, Regional Conservationist Office
Lisa Coverdale, State Conservationist, Montana
Dave Brown, State Conservationist, Utah
Curtis Elke, State Conservationist, Idaho
Jerry Shows, For Lisa Coverdale, Montana
Barry Hamilton, National Tribal Relations Liaison Officer

Tribal Representatives:

Susan Looper, Alternate, American Indian Alaska Native Employees Association (AIANEA)
Renelda Begay, The Navajo Nation
Jackie Francke, Tribal Organizer, Navajo Nation
Karen Linnell, Cheesh'na Tribe
Norman Lopez, Tribal Elder
Thora Padilla, Mescalero Apache Tribe
Jason Robison, Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians
Myrna Walking Eagle, Fort Peck Assiniboine & Sioux

General Topics:

- Welcome Council Members
- Purpose, Roles, and Expectations
- Select dates for our face to face meeting that will be held in San Diego, CA
- The process for new Council members

Astor Boozer open the meeting with roll call and thanked everyone for their participation on the Council and in today's call.

Purpose, Roles, and Expectations:

Astor Boozer reviewed the history of how the Council was developed. Executive Order 13174 was signed in 2000 requesting that NRCS establish regular and meaningful consultation with Tribal Officials when developing Federal policy that have tribal implications. NRCS developed policy (Title 410, General Manual, Part 405) for NRCS employees regarding interaction with Indian Tribes. And in June 2011, Chief Dave White signed a Decision Memorandum to establish the creation of RTCAC. These three Councils provided a direct line of communication from Tribes to NRCS leadership and policy makers. The Council provides a venue for agency leadership to gather input on Tribal issues.

There are three (3) Regional Tribal Conservation Advisory Councils (RTCACs). East, Central, and West region. Each Council has 16 members: five Federal members (1 RC, 3 STCs, and 1 American Indian Alaska Native Employee Association (AIANEA) representative); 10 Tribal representatives (9 Tribal representatives and 1 AIANEA elder), and 1 representative from the Regional Tribal Organization. The Council will have a minimum of two meetings per year. At least one is a teleconference and one is a face to face meeting. However, we are not limited to two meetings. I hope all

will ask questions not only of me but past members. The expectation from this Council is to discuss issues we need to be aware of (such as Farm Bill) and improve issues within the Tribal community. This Council is here to address, solve, discuss issues and hopefully we have good discussions.

Select dates for our face to face meeting

Astor Boozer stated that this year's face to face meeting will be held in San Diego, California. A tribe in the San Diego area will be hosting the meeting. The meeting will tentatively be held the first or second week in August.

Comment: (Jason Robison) During the last face to face meeting we discussed coinciding our face to face meeting with the Coalition meeting in December. Is this something we are still considering?

Comment: (Astor Boozer) Yes this newly formed Council will need to discuss how this may effect tribal member participation during the Coalition meeting. We will add this topic to discuss when all Council members are present.

Additional topic discussed: Best tool of communication

Comment: (Curtis Elke) Looking for opportunities to enhance relations within States. What is the best communication vehicle of choice out to the tribe with state office?

Comment: (Astor Boozer) Build a dialog through local opportunities with State Conservationists, State Technical Committees and Tribal Liaisons within states to take a look at resource needs in that state. Feedback from Tribal concerns to discuss with Chief Weller.

Action: (Yvette Rushing) This topic will be added to the agenda for the next teleconference.

Comment: (Susan Looper) Comments to Curtis' question about communications with tribes. Create State Technical Committees for the tribes.

Comment: (Astor Boozer) Washington, Oregon, and Arizona all have tribal Advisory Council along with State Technical Councils.

Comment: (Lisa Coverdale) First standalone meeting is April 13th. Open for suggestions, feedback, steps, or tips

Comment: (Astor Boozer) Reach out to Roylene Rides at the door, she has the information.

Comment: (Jason Robison) Get photo and bios from each members. This will make it helpful when getting to know members before the face to face meeting. (Personal bio, one photo, quick bio description of tribe)

Comment: (Astor Boozer) We have photos of past members possibly put these on a sharedrive

Action: (Yvette Rushing) Set up another call after 6 weeks from now. Which will be Friday, April 29th.

The process for new Council members:

Yvette Rushing explained the process for preparing for the face to face meeting. The importance of completing and returning the requested Vendor Coordination Request form that was emailed to each member on March 3rd of this year. The information is requesting banking routing and accounting, Social Security number, date of birth, mailing address. It was stressed that once the members' information is uploaded into NRCS' database to setup a profile for invitational travelers, the form will be shredded. All information submitted is secure and kept confidential.

Once the information from the Vendor Coordination form has been uploaded to NRCS database, Yvette Rushing will start preparing a travel itinerary for each Council member. We will book all flights based on the information submitted by the Council (the local airport you will like to depart from, the times you would like to depart/return, seat preference, airline preference, etc.) and make transportation arrangements for travelers to the meeting site. All expenses will for invitational travel.

Action Items:

Yvette Rushing: Add topic (Best tool of communication) to the agenda for the next teleconference.

Yvette Rushing: Set up another call after 6 weeks from now. Which will be Friday, April 29th.

Yvette Rushing: Send email asking other Council members to suggest dates for face to face meeting.

Yvette Rushing: email Contact list to Council.

Questions/Concerns/Request:

There were none discussed at this time.

DRAFT